## **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A method for configuring a machine vision system over a network, the machine vision system including a heterogeneous set of vision processors (VPs) and at least one host having a user interface (UI), the method comprising:

sending VP characteristic information over the network from a VP to a host having a UI; and

using the UI to configure the VP via the network.

- The method of claim 1, wherein the VP characteristic information includes: a plurality of VP characteristics.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the VP characteristic information includes:
  - a plurality of VP identification codes; and
  - a plurality of functions executable on the VP.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the VP characteristic information includes:

a VP identification code.

- The method of claim 1, wherein the VP characteristic information includes:
   an executable program.
- 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the executable program is adapted to configure a plurality of VP functions and parameters.
- 7. The method of claim 5, wherein the executable program is run on a thin client so as to provide a UI.
- The method of claim 1, wherein the VP characteristic information includes:
   a plurality of VP identification codes.
- The method of claim 1, wherein the VP characteristic information includes:a plurality of functions.
- 10. The method of claim 1, wherein sending VP characteristic information over the network includes:
  connecting to the VP using a thin client.
- 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the thin client is a web browser.